United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1470
2 September 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets in Geneva with mediators Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen to discuss interruption of Bosnian peace talks and its implications, including effect on humanitarian assistance.

+ Secretary-General, in report on ONUMOZ, urges Mozambican parties to move ahead with peace process; notes agreement on October 1994 deadline for elections; says financial constraints on United Nations preclude delay.

+ Special Representative for Angola says UNAVEM II's humanitarian programme will not be disrupted despite recent attack on aid convoy; visits neighbouring countries to seek support for resumption of peace talks between Government and UNITA.

+ Danish Brigadier-General appointed as Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG.

* * *

Following the break last night in the Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Geneva with Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, who have been presiding over the talks. Also taking part in the meeting was Martti Ahtissari, Special Advisor to the Conference and Chairman of the Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A United Nations spokesman described the meeting as constructive. The participants explored the implications of the interruption in the talks, including its impact on humanitarian assistance. They also discussed the report on the matter which the Secretary-General will be sending to the Security Council, including the Co-Chairmen's report on the recent round of negotiations.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Mr. Stoltenberg and Lord Owen have informed the parties to the talks that they remain at their disposal to assist in the search for peace, the spokesman said. The talks broke down last night over disagreements between the three parties regarding the distribution of territory within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

Recent developments in the Mozambican peace process were encouraging, but there was a pressing need for the two major parties to move ahead with its full implementation, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) dated 30 August. The demands facing the Organization and its critical financial constraints precluded any further delay, the Secretary-General said, and the international community was unlikely to accept attempts to obtain more concessions. He urged the Government and the opposition Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (RENAMO) not to lose the momentum of the constructive progress achieved so far.

The Secretary-General particularly welcomed the recent meeting in Maputo between President Joaquim Chissano and RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama, and their announced intention to meet regularly. He said that though a revised schedule for holding elections had not been formally approved, the Government had agreed to the proposed October 1994 deadline and RENAMO had implicitly agreed to it. He said the United Nations would continue to support and assist all parties and the people of Mozambique to achieve lasting peace and democracy in their country.

* * *

The United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) will continue with its humanitarian assistance programme notwithstanding last week's attack on one of its convoys in Caimbambo in which three personnel were killed and three trucks destroyed. In a statement issued today, Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye said that the United Nations would not be deterred by such acts, which were aimed at bringing about the suspension of humanitarian relief.

Mr. Beye today visited Sao Tome and Principe as part of his effort to obtain the support of Angola's neighbouring countries for the resumption of peace talks between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). He recently paid similar visits to Namibia, Zaire, Zimbabwe and Gabon with a view to reactivating the peace process within the framework of the Bicesse Accords and relevant Security Council resolutions.

* * *

Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard, a Danish national, has been appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). The Mission was established by the Security Council last week to verify compliance with the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July between the Republic of Georgia and forces in Abkhazia. The Mission, which will consist of up to 88 military observers and a minimal support staff, will investigate reports of violations and attempt to resolve such incidents with the parties involved.

* *** *